

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 10288 311710Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 OPR-02 MED-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /062 W

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R 311601Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1972

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 10288

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP PFOR ASEC GR US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON OF REMAINS
OF RICHARD S. WELCH

REF: ATHENS 10245

1. THREE ATHENS MORNING NEWSPAPERS DEC 31 -- AND
TWO AFTERNOON JOURNALS -- CARRIED PHOTOGRAPHS AND
ACCOMPANYING STORIES (IN ALL CASES BUT ONE -- ON FRONT
PAGE) OF MILITARY HONOR GUARD CARRYING COFFIN OF RICHARD
S. WELCH FROM AIRCRAFT AFTER ITS ARRIVAL AT ANDREWS AIR
FORCE BASE. CIA DIRECTOR COLBY CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE
IN PHOTOS AND SPECIFIC MENTION MADE OF THAT FACT EITHER
IN PICTURE CAPTION OR STORY. SECONDARY THEMES OF STORIES
INCLUDED EITHER (A) FACT THAT SPECIAL "SECRET" MEMORIAL SERVICE
WOULD BE HELD BY CIA AT LANGLEY TO WHICH ONLY ACTIVE DUTY
CIA OFFICIALS WOULD BE INVITED, AND (B) ALLEGATIONS
THAT ENTIRE FAMILY WAS "PREPARED" FOR POSSIBILITY THAT WELCH COULD
"FALL A VICTIM TO A MURDEROUS ATTACK."

2. ONLY THREE NEWSPAPERS DEC 31 REPEATED THEME

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VOICED BY ATHINAIKI YESTERDAY (REFTEL) THAT MRS. WELCH

HAD BEEN SPIRITED OUT OF GREECE. FOR MOST PART NOW,
PRESS SEEMS TO BE ENGAGED IN EITHER QUOTING AND REHASHING
EACH OTHER'S STORIES OR CITING FOREIGN PRESS
ACCOUNTS OF WELCH TRAGEDY.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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